

REMARKS

Claims 1-45 are currently pending.

Claims 16-18, 20-24 and 26-31 have been amended by correcting the spelling of "digitised" to --digitized--.

On the merits, Claims 1-4, 6-18, 25-27, and 32-45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,613,004 issued to Cooperman et al. (hereafter "the '004 patent or reference"). The arguments in support of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in item No. 5 on pages 2-8 of the Official Action, and not herein repeated. Claims 5, 19, 20 and 23, and 21, 22, 24 and 28-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over the '004 reference in view of various secondary references. See items Nos. 7, 8 and 9 on pages 8-12, and not herein repeated.

All of the outstanding grounds for rejection are respectfully traversed. In this regard, Applicants point out that claims 2-33 are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1. As such, if claim 1 is patentable over the '004 reference, then so too are each of the claims depending therefrom. Further, independent claims 34, 37, 41 and 42-45 have each been rejected "along the same rationale" as claim 1, and likewise those claims which depend therefrom, i.e., claims 35, 36, 38, 39 and 40. Accordingly, Applicants are of the view that if the patentability of claim 1 is established then the rejection of claims 34-45 should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has singled-out a limited number of passages or partial passages in the '004 reference on which the outstanding rejection of claim 1 is allegedly predicated. Specifically, the Examiner points to Col. 4, lines 48-51 of the '004 reference. Applicants fail to understand the relevance of the cited passage to claim 1 as support for the anticipation rejection. The Examiner is requested to clarify her position.

Further, the Examiner's citation of Col. 8, lines 20-25, and Col. 8, lines 26-28 is equally opaque. Again, the Examiner is respectfully requested to clarify how the cited passage is alleged to constitute an anticipation of steps. "(A)" and "(B)" in claim 1.

Step "(C1)" of claim 1 is said to be anticipated by the teaching in the '004 reference at Col. 8, lines 36-38. The Examiner, without providing any basis for her position, states that "searching", the term used in claim 1, is the same as "convolution operation", the term used in the '004 patent. Applicants contend that its "searching" step in claim 1 is not a "convolution operation." Searching, as claimed, means looking for similar data value for embedding, while "convolution" in signal processing is a standard mathematical formula to extract an output from an input sequence based on a customized mask. The convolution operation is found in many digital filtering operations of noisy data using a filter mask. The '004 reference is teaching the use of this, or a very similar concept of applying a key/mask in the spatial domain. In the present invention, a search operation of the original content with similar values to the watermark content for embedding is being performed. For this reason alone, Applicants contend that the '004 reference fails to anticipate the present invention.

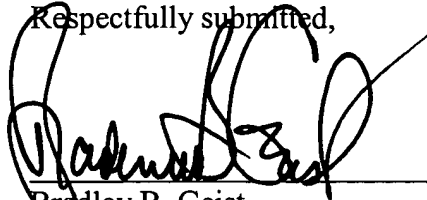
The Examiner asserts that step "(C2)" of claim 1 is anticipated by the '004 reference at Col. 1, lines 15-27. Once again, Applicants would appreciate a clarification of how this passage anticipates what is claimed in step "(C2)".

In the circumstances, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the pending claims and if allowance is not forthcoming, the requests the Examiner to clarify the

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relevance of the questioned passages from the '004 reference relied upon by the Examiner, and further, provide a factual basis for equating the "convolution operations" in the '004 reference to "searching" as claimed in claim 1.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bradley B. Geist', is written over a horizontal line.

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